

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 are pending. Claims 1 and 2 are amended and claims 3-8 have been canceled.

Claims 1-3 and 6/1 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over applicants' description of the prior art taken in view of Yamada. Favorable reconsideration of this rejection is requested in view of the amendments made herein.

Claim 1 has been amended to specify a plurality of tubular barrels which are detachably supported by support shafts provided at each side of each tubular barrel. See, for example, Figs. 4 and 5 of the present specification. Although the support shafts 38 are illustrated in Figs. 4 and 5 as being provided at the center of both sides of the tubular barrel 35, the support shaft of course is not limited to the center of both sides of the tubular barrel.

The combination of art fails to teach or suggest the presently claimed invention. The combination of art fails to teach or suggest tubular barrels which are detachably supported by support shafts provided at each side of each tubular barrel circumferentially outside a horizontal rotational axis of a support member rotatable about said rotational axis.

The tubular barrels of the present invention can be attached or detached with the support member set in the deposited-film forming apparatus. In contrast thereto, the tubular barrels of the cited art cannot be attached or detached easily because the tubular barrel 2 of the cited art is not supported by support shafts, but is supported by being inserted into the body receiving plate 4 and the stopper plate 5, so that the whole apparatus should be disassembled and then assembled in order to attach or detach the tubular barrel.

In regard to Yamada, there is no description as to how works are placed into or taken out of the tubular barrel 2. If the works are placed into or taken out of the tubular barrel 2 by using the openings 2a provided at both sides of the tubular barrel, it would appear that the tubular barrel 2 is not made so as to be detachable. Furthermore, if the tubular barrel 2 of Yamada is used in a deposited-film forming apparatus such as that of the present invention, the body receiving plate 4 will be an obstacle which would prevent a uniform deposited film from being formed on the surface of a work in the tubular barrel. Accordingly, the combination of art fails to teach or suggest the presently claimed invention.

The rejection of claims 4, 5 and 6/4 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicants' description of the prior art taken in view of Yamada and further in view of Humphrey and Yira is rendered moot by cancellation of these claims.

Claims 1, 3 and 6/1 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over Baer. Furthermore, these claims were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art taken in view of Baer. Favorable reconsideration of these rejections is earnestly solicited.

As noted above, the presently pending claims require tubular barrels which are detachably supported by support shafts provided at each side of each tubular barrel. The cited art fails to teach the presently claimed invention.

Claims 4, 5 and 6/4 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art and/or Baer taken in view of DDR 244993 and Fujita. This rejection has been rendered moot by cancellation of these claims.

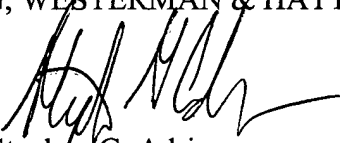
For at least the foregoing reasons, the presently claimed invention distinguishes over the cited art and defines patentable subject matter. Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by Applicants would be desirable to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone Applicants' undersigned attorney.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Petition for Extension of Time